imperiled, but in all probability the disease would have spread through the house" (1867, 40), raises some interesting questions about the welfare of patients:

> The improvement in her condition, which became obvious almost immediately after her removal to the Hospital, sufficiently demonstrated the sanatory qualities of the house; and the fact that not another case of the disease occurred, proved the great value of this means of isolation. (1867, 40).

Nurses ought not to improve so dramatically immediately upon removal from their own wards. Workman seems either strangely obtuse to the implications for his institution, or too jaded to the reality to notice.

After expressing his intention to present his new Hospitals (or "Homes") in "ornamental surroundings of shrubberies, flowers, and pleasant walks ... not unworthy the respect and imitation of other countries," consistent with his "earnest purpose to elevate the character of the Toronto Asylum" (1867, 40), he indulges his passion for lowly and unaesthetic matters of plumbing, heating, and ventilation. The ventilation of the "water-closets" is his peculiar hobby, mainly because he has invented his own system of it, "at once the cheapest, the simplest, and the most efficient in existence" (1867, 41). He describes it in detail:

> the insertion of a three-inch lead, or galvanised iron, air-tight tube, into the soil-pipe, below the pan, and three or four inches above the surface of the water in the goose-neck trap. This air-pipe is carried to the nearest chimney with good and constant draft. (1867, 41)

The beauty of his invention is that it effectively "converts the water-closet pan into a quasi tobacco-pipe bowl" (1867, 41). However, it will never be widely adopted, he cynically admits, "unless by persons of common sense; therefore its extension will not be very rapid" (1867, 41).